



John Lawrence

FISHING: Walleye abound

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deck going right out to the beach. The store in the trailer has film, candy, oil, flashlights, milk, pop, fishing gear — a little bit of everything. The snack bar has hamburgers, chicken nuggets, great french fries and, if you can talk John into it, some of the best beer battered fish I have ever eaten. The trailer serves as the central point for equipment rentals which include: jet skis for \$25 an hour, adductors for \$20 an hour, fishing boats with a motor for \$20 a half day or \$35 a day, boats without motors for \$15 a day, plus life vests, waterskis and hydroskides (little knee boards). Camping sights can be rented from Parks and Recreation. There are

spaces for about 50 units and that will expand next year as the park is improved.

Improvements for next year include a large grass area in the park right around the trailer, covered tops on the cabanas so it won't be quite as hot in the summer and some new washed sand beaches.

Boating on the lake is nice. The water was a warm 70 degrees on the surface and had a beautiful green-blue color. John Lawrence said it was that color most of the year. This is an ideal place to waterski because the water is warm, the lake is fairly long — nearly 2½ miles longer than Deer Creek — it has very little algae in the water and there are very few people using it. Gas is available at the marina along with mooring and dry dock facilities.

Fishing the lake reminded me a little of Lake Powell. There are good populations of Walleyes and Largemouth Bass and they are found in much the same places as they are at Lake Powell. Rod and I fished with Max along rock ledges with big boulders and caught both Largemouth and Walleyes. Max boated a Walleye that was right on 3½ pounds. In all, we had 10 Bass and two Walleyes in the boat in less than three hours. The lake is fairly unique in that two rivers empty into it from almost two opposite ends, the Strawberry from the northwest and the Duchesne from the northeast. There are five major species of gamefish in the lake: Walleyes, Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass, Brown and Cutthroat Trout. The Walleyes in the lake are getting to be nice sized with some fish over 10 pounds being caught. Bass, both the large and smallmouth, are weighing in at up to 3½ pounds. Browns up to 21 pounds have been caught but the Cutthroats seem to stay fairly small. Most of the Cutthroats are caught on the Strawberry River end of the lake. The main forage fish for the game fish is the Utah Chub. Minnow imitations usually

work well although most of our fish were caught on a three-inch purple Mr. Twister.

Starvation has always been a place that I have driven by to get to Pelican or the Gorge but I won't do that in the future. This lake is only a 100 miles from Provo.

It has very few people using it, good fishing, some nice sandy beaches with more being put in and some pleasant people running a new business, so they are going the extra mile right now to get things established. The next time you're thinking of Lake Powell, the Gorge or Strawberry as a place to get away from it all, consider Starvation — it's an underrated, underutilized, nearby recreation delight.

Upper Stillwater Dam refills after completion of \$1.5 million project

24-89
DUCHESSNE (UPI) — The Bureau of Reclamation is refilling the Upper Stillwater Dam following completion of a \$1.5 million project to cover sand piles blamed for discoloring the reservoir and Rock Creek.

The reservoir was drained last fall and sand piles left behind following construction of the dam were capped with cement, said bureau spokesman Barry Wirth.

Also, while the reservoir was drawn down, other minor corrective work to the future boat ramp site and the Forest Service trail adjacent to the reservoir was completed, Wirth said.

While the northeastern Utah dam near Duchesne is refilling, he said, downstream flows in Rock Creek will be kept high enough to support the trout fishery.

"Some discoloration of the reservoir water is still expected this year," Wirth said. "While the sand piles are covered, there remains a certain amount of natural sand on the reservoir bottom which will be disturbed while the reservoir fills. It will take a period of time for that sand to settle out."

Silt flow from Uppper Stillwater Dam in 1988 didn't hurt fish, bureau says

By Steve Fidel
Deseret News staff writer

Red silt that flowed in the water through the newly completed Upper Stillwater Dam near Duchesne in 1988 did not harm the fishery downstream, the Bureau of Reclamation says.

Kirt Carpenter, the bureau's Utah projects manager, said the federal agency conducted a study to determine whether fish or the fish habitat in Rock Creek were damaged when red quartzite sand, left in the reservoir basin when the new dam was completed last year, was stirred up in the water and carried through the dam's outlet works when the reservoir began to fill in the spring.

The silt colored the water red on streams that pass through Ute Indian land. The Utes filed a suit in federal

court, contending the red silt had ruined the fishery and had desecrated burial grounds.

There was little the bureau could do to stop the flow through the dam once the problem was noticed because of a federal regulation requiring new dams to be filled slowly — a measure taken on all new federal dams since the Teton Dam failed in Idaho more than a decade ago.

Stopping the flow to keep the silt out of the creek would have caused the reservoir to fill faster than federal regulations allow.

Beginning July 5, the bureau began draining the reservoir to expose the troublesome sand piles on the east and west banks of the reservoir. Two piles were capped, in place, with soil cement at a cost of \$1.6 million.

"There is no evidence of any damage (to the fishery) as a result of that problem," Carpenter said. "We'll be getting back to meet with the tribe and others interested in a solution to that problem right away."

Even with the sand piles capped, some discoloration and clouding of the water is expected through the spring, the bureau has said, because of construction disturbances and existing sand layers distributed through the reservoir basin.

Another contract to fill hairline cracks in the innovative roller-compacted concrete dam is ongoing and should be finished by the first of April, Carpenter said.

After that, the bureau hopes to have approval to completely fill the reservoir behind the dam, which is a feature of the Central Utah Project's Strawberry Aqueduct and collection system.



FOOTPRINTS THRU DUCHE SNE

EVENING PROGRAM
July 4, 1991

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: Art Taylor

POSTING OF THE COLORS: American Legion

OPENING PRAYER:

WELCOME: Mayor RoJean Addley

Introduction of Program:

Musical Number: "My Country 'Tis of Thee"
Clair Poulson, Kim Hamlin, George Adams, Tyke Kargis
Accompanied by Ruth Poulson

TRIBUTE TO NATIVE AMERICANS: Porter Merrill

TRIBUTE TO FATHER ESCALANTE AND EARLY EXPLORERS: Jason Taylor

TRIBUTE TO PIONEERS: April Skewes and Adrian Bancroft

TRIBUTE TO A.M. MURDOCK: Robbie Taylor, assisted by
Choral Readers

TRIBUTE TO A.M. MURDOCK: Murdock family members

by Mark Kirkham

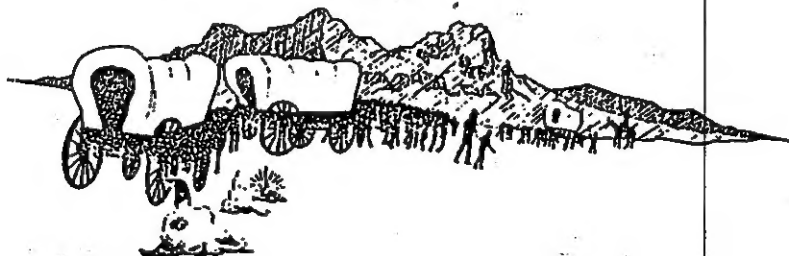
MUSICAL NUMBER: "America The Beautiful" - Alisa Muir

TRIBUTE TO SERVICEMEN:

MUSICAL NUMBER: Audience Sing-a-long
"I'm Proud to be an American"

CLOSING PRAYER:

RETIRING OF COLORS: American Legion





This rare picture shows the tedious method of building the dam at Strawberry Valley during its early development.

He and others convinced the Bureau of Reclamation to undertake the project and aided in the Bureau's plan to develop the area into a choice range and grazing country from the Colorado River.

The dam and reservoir were completed in 1912. There are some 8,600 acres in the area used for range lands. A unique mile-long tunnel that provides the outlet for the lake is at the opposite end of the lake from the Colorado Drainage system. At one point the tunnel is 1,700 feet in diameter and is used for irrigation in the reservoir.

From the beginning the reservoir was a popular resort area. Boating became popular, and fishing and hunting were popular. Some of the largest natural lakes in the state have come from Strawberry Valley, and the mountains that surround the lake are some of the most beautiful in the West.

At its peak there are some 500 people living on the shores of the lake. Fishing camps on the shores of the lake have been on the lake at one time or another.

The first commercial resort and hotel was built by Jim and George A. Madsen. Later, Madsen and Nettie established their own camp and hotel.

Retired official's tenacity brings safe drinking water closer to reality in Duchesne

DUCHESNE (AP) — Residents of Duchesne County's upper valley got tired of dried-up wells, foul water and problems with plumbing. And with the help of Ted Kappen, they decided enough was enough.

Kappen, a former county commissioner and jack-of-all-trades who retired after his second heart attack in 1986, was determined to help bring a reliable water system to the upper valley.

And after at least two dozen 300-mile round-trips by Kappen to Salt Lake City to secure money from various state agencies, a \$10 million project to bring a safe, steady water supply to 600 families is coming to fruition.

"He doesn't retire very well," observed his wife, Elaine.

Kappen said rural residents by nature are willing to put up with some inconveniences. "But when you have things come along and upset the table so you can't use the water, you have to do something. Water is a basic."

One third of the ranch families must travel 20 miles or more to either Roosevelt or Duchesne for drinking water, particularly in the winter after wells have depleted the shallow aquifer. The aquifer itself has not been refilling as much recently, due to drought and changes in irrigation practices.

Other wells were rendered unusable by contamination, with some penetrating subsurface soils loaded with manganese and others polluted by nearby outhouses or septic tanks.

Many residents also believe oil operations contaminated their wells, but they acknowledge that they have no proof.

Doug Swasey said his water was good until an oil well was drilled nearby. Now the water "has a horrible smell and stains the toilet . . . That makes you wonder what kind of stuff is coming through the tap."

He gets drinking water from a spring off U.S. 40 whenever he drives to Salt Lake City.

"It is an accepted principle that more and more human activity — agricultural and industrial — impacts shallow ground-water reservoirs," said Ken Alkema, director of the Utah Department of Environmental Quality.

Water problems notwithstanding, oil operations are viewed favorably by most upper-valley farmers. Many would have sold out long ago without oil royalties to supplement their incomes, Kappen said.

Oil companies also are the district's largest property owners, so they pay a sizable

percentage of the new system's costs.

Kappen and his neighbors agreed, however, that the only way to solve the water problem was to organize a water district and build a system to serve the communities of Altonah, Boneta, Bluebell, Mount Emmons, Mountain Home and Talmage. Then they had to find a way to pay for it.

Forming the Duchesne County Upper Country Water Improvement District was easy. Nearly everybody had water problems so all were eager to join. So eager that more than 80 percent voted in 1989 to assume an extensive debt to see the project through.

The first phase is done. Treated water should flow to Bluebell residences by Thanksgiving. Kappen hopes the entire upper valley will be interconnected within two years by 135 miles of pipeline.

He estimates the district will repay 75 percent of the \$10 million cost, a high percentage for water projects.

"That speaks highly of the people. They're willing to take the biggest share of the project," he said.

Alkema agreed. "That is a major commitment to fund whatever it takes to have a safe drinking-water supply. It's easy for us along the Wasatch Front not to understand how vital it is to have a safe source of water."

But the source was a problem initially.

For a while, it looked like water flowing from the Uinta Mountains into Starvation Reservoir would have to be pumped back to the valley, a climb of 1,200 feet.

Recently, however, the district located a new source — a spring in the mountains. A water-rights swap was arranged. And although final approval is pending, officials with the Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Forest and Fish and Wildlife services said they foresee no insurmountable problems.

The change in plans will save \$70,000 a year in pumping costs, but there was concern it could jeopardize financial support for the Central Utah Project since water from Starvation Reservoir no longer is necessary.

Kappen said his district will buy some CUP water to assure adequate supplies in dry times. He also is confident CUP officials will continue to provide financial support for the project in gratitude for Duchesne County's contributions to the project's near completion.

"I can see taking care of 1.5 million on the Wasatch Front, but don't forget about us out here," he said.